REMARKS

The April 1, 2008 Office Action was based on pending Claims 1-12. By this Response, Applicants are amending Claims 1-5 and 10-12 and adding new Claims 13-20. In addition, Applicants are cancelling Claims 6-9 without prejudice or disclaimer and specifically reserve the right to pursue these claims in this or other related applications. Thus, after entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-5 and 10-20 remain pending for further consideration. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submits that Claims 1-5 and 10-20 are patentably distinguished over the cited references.

I. SUMMARY OF REJECTIONS

The April 1, 2008 Office Action rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,985,953 to Sandhu, et al. ("Sandhu"). Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandhu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,993,596 to Hinton, et al. ("Hinton").

The April 1, 2008 Office Action also rejected cancelled Claims 6-9, and Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections. Because Applicants have cancelled those claims, those rejections are not moot, and thus Applicants will not respond to those rejections in this Response. However, Applicants preserve the right to respond in the future if Applicants decide to later pursue those claims.

A. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-5 as being anticipated by Sandhu. In view of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully disagree and requests reconsideration of Claims 1-5.

1. Independent Claim 1

Focusing on independent Claim 1, in one embodiment of Applicant's invention a system is disclosed for determining a user's login status as the user accesses a site within a network. The system includes a database storing information about partner sites that have been linked by a user and a baseline authentication agency server configured to receive a request from a user's browser, the request comprising a site identification identifying a site and a cookie related to the user and including a reference to the baseline authentication agency; to determine whether the cookie is valid; to determine whether the user has authorized seamless login for the site using the information from the database; and to generate a login ticket for the site and send the login ticket to the user's browser if the cookie is valid and the user has authorized seamless login for the site; wherein the cookie is stored on a global network domain

used for cookie sharing and the site is one of a collection of partner sites with access to cookies shared on the global network domain.

Sandhu does not disclose the system of independent Claim 1. Rather, Sandhu is directed to creating, receiving and transmitting secure cookies, confidential cookies and authentication cookies. For example, Sandhu discloses the use of secure cookies to provide authentication services, integrity services, and confidentiality services.

Sandhu does not disclose, among other things, <u>a database storing information about partner sites that have been linked by a user</u>. In addition, Sandhu does not disclose, among other things, the baseline authentication agency server configured to receive a request from a user's browser, the request comprising a site identification identifying a site and a cookie related to a user <u>and including a reference to the baseline authentication agency</u>; to determine whether the cookie is valid; <u>to determine whether the user has authorized seamless login for the site using the database</u>; and <u>to generate a login ticket for the site and send the login ticket to the user's browser if the cookie is valid and the user has authorized seamless login for the site</u>.

Because Sandhu does not disclose each element of amended independent Claim 1, Applicants assert that Claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and request that it is passed to allowance.

2. **Dependent Claims 2-5**

Claims 2–5 depend from independent Claim 1 and are believed to be patentably distinguished over Sandhu for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 2-5 are in condition for allowance and request that they are passed to allowance.

B. **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Office Action rejects Claims 10-12 as being anticipated by Sandhu in view of Hinton. In view of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully disagree and request reconsideration of Claims 10-12.

1. **Independent Claim 10**

Focusing on independent Claim 10, in one embodiment of Applicant's invention a method is disclosed for a baseline authentication agency to determine a user's login permission for a site. The method includes receiving a request from a user's browser, the request

comprising a site identifier related to a site, and a set of user information related to a user and including a reference to the baseline authentication agency; determining whether the set of user information is valid; if the set of user information is valid, determining whether the user has authorized seamless login for the site, and generating a login ticket for the site and sending the login ticket to the user's browser if the user has authorized seamless login for the site.

Sandhu, alone or in combination with Hinton, does not disclose the system of independent Claim 10. As set forth above, Sandhu is directed to creating, receiving and transmitting secure cookies, confidential cookies and authentication cookies. In addition, Hinton is directed to allowing an Internet user to transfer directly to a domain that is part of a specific e-community, where the e-community members are domains corresponding to business units that are participating in the e-community.

Thus, Sandhu, alone or in combination with Hinton, does not disclose, among other things, receiving a request from a user's browser, the request comprising a site identifier related to a site and a set of user information related to a user and including a reference designating the baseline authentication agency. In addition, Sanhu, alone or in combination with Hinton, does not disclose, among other things, determining whether the user has authorized seamless login for the site, generating a login ticket for the site, and sending the login ticket to the user's browser, if the set of user information is valid.

Because Sandhu, alone or in combination with Hinton, does not disclose each element of amended independent Claim 10, Applicants assert that Claim 10 is not anticipated by the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 10 is in condition for allowance and request that it is passed to allowance.

2.   Dependent Claims 11-12

Claims 11-12 depend from independent Claim 10 and are believed to be patentably distinguished over Sandhu, alone or in combination with Hinton, for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 10 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 11-12 are in condition for allowance and request that they are passed to allowance.

II.   NEW CLAIMS 13-20

New claims 13-20 have been added and are believed to be fully distinguished over the prior art of record. No new matter is added by these claims.

Claims 13-18 depend from Claim 10 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 10, and because of the additional features recited therein.

Claims 19-20 have been added and are believed to be allowable. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Sandhu, alone or in combination with Hinton, fails to teach or suggest every element of any of Claims 19-20, and thus, Claims 19-20 are believed to be allowable.

III.   RESCISSION OF ANY PRIOR DISCLAIMERS AND REQUEST TO REVISIT ART

The claims of the present application are different and possibly broader in scope than any pending claims in any related application or issued claims in any related patent. To the extent that any amendments or characterizations of the scope of any claim or referenced art could be construed as a disclaimer of any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, Applicants hereby rescind and retract such disclaimer. Accordingly, the above-listed references, or other listed or referenced art may need to be re-visited.

IV.   NO DISCLAIMERS OR DISAVOWALS

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

V.   CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that the issues may be promptly resolved.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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Respectfully submitted,

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